

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

In order to expedite prosecution, the Applicant has cancelled claims 10-16 and 25-29. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-9, 17 and 19-21 remain pending in the application.

2.) Withdrawal of Prior Basis of Claim Rejections

In the prior office action, dated June 29, 2009, the Examiner rejected all claims as being anticipated by Hurtta¹, *et al.* (WO 01/91382). In response to that basis of rejection, the Applicant amended independent claims 1 and 17 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 18, respectively, which were cancelled. In the present office action, the Examiner has now rejected all pending claims as obvious over Hurtta in view of Chotai (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,805). The Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing that the claims are not anticipated by Hurtta. For the reasons that follow, the claims are also not obvious over Hurtta in view of Chotai.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-9, 17 and 19-21 as being unpatentable over Hurtta, *et al.* (WO 01/91382) in view of Chotai (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,805). The Applicant traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 recites:

1. A method in a communication apparatus for maintaining an established connection between said communication apparatus and a network node of a serving communication network, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an acceptance message from said network node in response to a request message relating to a first procedure transmitted to said network node;
 - determining whether any request relating to a second procedure is pending; and,
 - transmitting to said network node, if any request is pending when said acceptance message is received, a maintaining request for maintaining said connection, wherein the step of transmitting

¹ Although the Examiner referred to WO 01/91382 as "Haumont" in the prior office action, the first-named inventor is Hurtta, as properly used by the Examiner in the present office action.

said maintaining request is executed if the pending request is received **after** the request relating to the first procedure is transmitted and before said acceptance message is received.
(emphasis added)

The Applicant's invention is directed to solving a problem identified in the prior art that is reflected in the teachings of Hurtta. As noted at page 4, line 5, *et seq.*, of Applicant's disclosure, "there is a problem in the prior art that the [Follow On Request (FOR)] has to be incorporated **into** the first message for establishing the connection." At page 4, line 20, *et seq.*, the Applicant identifies Hurtta as disclosing a "Follow-on request [that] is sent **in** the [first] message if there is pending uplink traffic." (emphasis added) Thus, the Applicant identified Hurtta as teaching the very problem that Applicant's invention solves. As noted by the Applicant at page 4, line 7, *et seq.*, "if . . . an establishment request [is received] **after** the request for a [first] procedure has been transmitted and before the established connection has been terminated, the connection might be terminated although a procedure is pending and awaiting service." (emphasis added) It is the undesired termination of an established connection that the Applicant's invention prevents.

As described by the Applicant at page 15, line 7, *et seq.*:

"As is known in the art, if the GMM unit receives the connection establishment request relating to a second procedure from the upper layers **before** the REQUEST relating to a **first** procedure is transmitted, a Follow-On Request (FOR) may be attached to the REQUEST relating to the first procedure. Then, the established connection will be maintained when the procedure relating to the first procedure is finished, wherein the connection does not have to be established again." (emphasis added)

In other words, as was known in the prior art, if a connection establishment request relating to a second procedure is received **before** a REQUEST message relating to a first procedure is transmitted, a Follow-On Request can be attached to the request relating to such first procedure. The Applicant's invention, however, addresses the situation when such an establishment request relating to a second procedure is received **after** a REQUEST message relating to a first procedure was transmitted. Hurtta does not address that situation. As disclosed by the Applicant at page 16, line 3, *et seq.*:

“According to the invention, the upper layers (or the internal GMM event) may issue a connection establishment request relating to a second GMM procedure after the REQUEST message relating to the first GMM procedure has been transmitted to the network GMM unit. If the ACCEPT message issued in response to the REQUEST message relating to the first procedure has not been received before the connection establishment request relating to the second procedure is received from the upper layers, the FOR request may according to the invention be incorporated into the COMPLETE message finishing the procedure relating to first GMM procedure. A single bit in the COMPLETE message may implement the FOR request, wherein “1” indicates that FOR is valid, and “0” indicates that FOR is not valid. If FOR in the COMPLETE message is valid, the network GMM unit will maintain the connection, otherwise the connection is terminated when the procedure relating to the first GMM procedure is terminated.” (emphasis added)

According to the invention as recited in claim 1, a “maintaining request” is transmitted to the network node if any request is pending when an acceptance message is received; the acceptance message is received from the network node in response to the request message relating to a first procedure transmitted to the network node. In the embodiment described by Applicant, a FOR request incorporated into the COMPLETE message finishing the procedure relating to the first procedure corresponds to such a “maintaining request.” The “maintaining request” is transmitted “if the pending request is received after the request relating to the first procedure is transmitted and before said acceptance message [relating to the first procedure] is received.” **As now acknowledged by the Examiner, Hurttä does not teach that functionality.** (Present Office Action; page 4, line 3, et seq.)

To overcome the acknowledged deficiency in the teachings of Hurttä, the Examiner now looks to the teachings of Chotai. The teachings of Chotai, however, are inapposite to the problem addressed by Applicant's invention, much less the claimed solution. The functionality recited in claim 1 is embodied in a “communication apparatus for maintaining an established connection between said communication apparatus and a network node of a serving communication network;” *i.e.*, the functionality is performed in a wireless terminal. In contrast to the claimed invention, the Examiner points to functionality described in Chotai that is performed in the network. As recited in claim 1, a maintaining request for an existing connection is transmitted from the communication

apparatus "to said network node, if any request is pending when said acceptance message is received, . . . , wherein the step of transmitting said maintaining request is executed if the pending request is received after the request relating to the first procedure is transmitted and before said acceptance message is received." It is only within the communication device, and not the network, where it can be determined whether "any request is pending when [an] acceptance message is received," and that "the pending request is received after the request relating to the first procedure is transmitted [from the communication device] and before said acceptance message is received [from the network]." In contrast, Chotai describes functionality *in the network* that releases a connection if it is not utilized before a timer expires. For the functionality disclosed by Chotai to accomplish the same result, it would need to know of the pending request relating to a second procedure in the communication device. But if information relating to the pending request relating to a second procedure were transmitted to the network, that would obviate the claimed functionality of sending a maintaining request in the limited circumstance of when "the pending request is received after the request relating to the first procedure is transmitted and before said acceptance message is received [from the network]." Thus, Chotai does not overcome the deficiencies in the teachings of Hurtt, which are solved by the invention recited in claim 1. Therefore, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 1.

Whereas claims 10, 17 and 25 recite limitations analogous to those of claim 1, they are also not obvious over Hurtt in view of Chotai. Finally, whereas claims 3-9, 11-16, 19-21 and 26-29 are dependent from claims 1, 10, 17 and 25, respectively, and include the limitations thereof, they are also not obvious over Hurtt in view of Chotai.

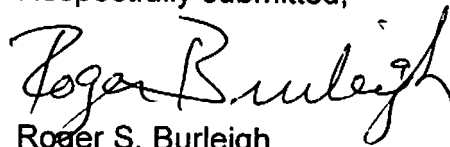
* * *

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3-9, 17 and 19-21.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger S. Burleigh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Burleigh" clearly distinguishable.

Roger S. Burleigh
Registration No. 40,542

Date: June 15, 2010

Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive, M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, Texas 75024

(972) 583-5799
roger.burleigh@ericsson.com